

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the comments which follow, favorable reconsideration is kindly requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has first indicated the allowance of claims 1-10, 12 and 13, which action is much appreciated. Claims 14-16 remain rejected under §102 as anticipated by DiGiovanni. Claims 16 and 18-20 remain rejected under §102 as anticipated by Ruffin. Applicants traverse these rejections as follows.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, Applicants have carefully studied the Examiner's comments as well as the DiGiovanni reference. As a result, claim 1 has been amended for clarity without substantive change in scope. Applicant traverses the §102 rejection as follows.

The Examiner will note that claim 14 is directed to a configuration where "a multi-mode core fiber [is] coupled to the cladding pumped fiber for coupling single mode light". Applicants have now clarified and amplified claim 14 by explicitly reciting that the single mode light is coupled "into the core of the cladding pumped fiber".

In contrast, DiGiovanni fails to disclose in any of its embodiments a multimode core fiber. Although each of DiGiovanni's embodiments indeed employ multimode fiber, none of these fibers are seen as having a multimode core. Indeed, the embodiment of Figure 1, on which the Examiner now relies, illustrates only *coreless* multimode fibers. This is due to the fact that signal light is not passing through the coupler in the embodiment of Figure 1. Rather, this embodiment is designed only for inputting pump light into the cladding of the cladding pumped

fiber 15. As stated in the sentence bridging columns 2 and 3, - “it is contemplated that each individual multimode fiber 11...will couple light from an associated semiconductor emitter source to the cladding fiber 15”. There is no mention of coupling light into the core of the fiber 15, only into the cladding.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that DiGiovanni in no way teaches a multimode core fiber ... for coupling single mode light into the core of the cladding pumped fiber, as now more clearly claimed.

With regard to claims 16 and 18-20, the Examiner’s comments are well taken. Accordingly, claim 16 has been amended to incorporate one of the allowable features from claim 1, namely, the feature wherein the first optical fiber is tapered at location apart from the splice. It is noted that the Examiner specifically mentions this limitation in his “Statement of Reasons for Allowance” on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 16 and its dependent claims are now immediately allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Turner
Registration No. 29,710

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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